

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 985

By Turner

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mary Ruth Robinson  
on the celebration of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those  
citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ruth Robinson celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 9, 2016, a  
milestone that was commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Zelma Pauline Endicott and Henry Franklin Thompson,  
Mary Ruth Robinson was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, and raised on a farm near Knob Noster,  
Missouri; and

WHEREAS, she attended her father's alma mater, Lincoln University, where she earned  
a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and became a faithful member of Alpha Kappa  
Alpha Sorority, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Robinson served as a teacher at Lincoln School in St. Joseph,  
Missouri, as well as Knob Noster, Missouri, and proudly worked on the homefront as a riveter  
during World War II; and

WHEREAS, during her lifetime she has held a variety of jobs, including tenures as a  
maid, as program director of a halfway house, as a caseworker, and as the owner of a small  
restaurant; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Robinson was employed by the Internal Revenue Service in Kansas  
City, Missouri, and was transferred to Memphis in 1972, where she continues to reside in a  
retirement home, King's Daughter and Sons; and

WHEREAS, a longtime member and adherent of the Baha'i Faith, Mary Ruth Robinson  
has lived a life full of her faith's tenets to achieve universal peace and recognize the oneness of

mankind as she has traveled to many countries, including Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, China, Ghana, and the Soviet Union to learn, photograph, and see first hand the various cultures; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished photographer, Ms. Robinson's work has been exhibited in Mississippi and Memphis with the bulk of her photographs and documents having been donated to the University of Memphis's Department of Archives, which have proven to be a tremendous resource and provided historical insights into the lives of the middle class African Americans of her time; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Memphis community, Mary Ruth Robinson has received numerous awards and accolades for her humanitarian efforts, including the prestigious Lifetime Peacemakers Award from the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center; and

WHEREAS, as Mary Ruth Robinson approaches her eleventh decade, she is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events, as her health permits; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Mary Ruth Robinson on the celebration of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.